

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 924

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE ADDRESSES

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

1. NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY OF STATE MERLYN REES ADDRESSING CONFERENCE OF NORTHERN COMMITTEE IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS MAY 7 SPOKE ON FORTHCOMING CONVENTION, SECURITY CONCERNS AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE STRESSED HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY BORNE BY CONVENTION MEMBERS TO FASHION NEW SET POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND THAT WILL COMMAND WIDESPREAD ACCEPTANCE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY, PAVING THE WAY TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. HE STATED NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTORATE DETERMINED CONVENTION SHOULD INCLUDE WIDE RANGE OF OPINION. IN THIS RESPECT, HE SAID, IT WILL DIFFER FROM BOTH DARLINGTON AND SUNNINGDALE AND THIS VERY DIVERSITY MUST GIVE GROUNDS FOR HOPE. HE STRESSED REAL SOLUTION TO NORTHERN IRELAND PROBLEMS MUST BE GENUINELY ACCEPTABLE ALL PARTS COMMUNITY. WHILE INITIATIVE RESTS WITH CONVENTION FINAL DECISION RESTS WITH UNITED KINGDOM PARLIAMENT AT WESTMINSTER, HE SAID.

2. MR. REES SAID THAT ONLY WITH GENUINE AND SUSTAINED

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CESSATION OF VIOLENCE CAN ROLE OF ARMY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

BE RADICALLY CHANGED AND INDEED ENDED. BRITAIN, HE SAID, HAS RESPONSIBILITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND LABOUR PARTY REJECTS VIEW THAT TROOPS SHOULD BE PULLED OUT IN ADVANCE OF POLITICAL SOLUTION. HE IMPLIED THAT LEVEL OF VIOLENCE INCLUDING FEUDS AND GANGSTERISM PRECLUDED END OF DETENTION NOW BUT THAT HE WOULD CONTINUE RELEASING DETAINEES.

3. SECRETARY OF STATE LAID UNITED KINGDOM SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS TO CONTINUING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM AGGRAVATED BY ENERGY CRISIS AND BRITAIN'S WORSENING POSITION IN THE WORLD AS COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES FOLLOWED THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND GREW FURTHER IN NATIONHOOD. HE SPECIFICALLY WARNED THAT ULSTER SHIPBUILDING AND SHIRT MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES MUST PUT HOUSES IN ORDER, PARTLY THROUGH INVOLVEMENT TOTAL WORK FORCES.

4. CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY LEN MURRAY OF BRITISH TUC ALSO HEARD COMMITTEE REPORT THAT DECLARED ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL AND STRIKE LAST MAY IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. CONFERENCE ALSO PASSED ANTI-EEC MEMBERSHIP MOTION AND RECOMMENDED ADVISING TRADE UNIONISTS AND FAMILIES TO VOTE AGAINST CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN COMING REFERENDUM.

5. FULL REPORT TRADE UNION CONFERENCE FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.

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